

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 11457 191715Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, FR, PFOR, PARM
SUBJ: GOF VIEW OF US ATTITUDE TOWARD LEFT GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO DE MONTBRIAL, DIRECTOR OF QUAI PLANNING STAFF, GOF IS CONVINCED AT HIGH LEVELS (PM BARRE AND ELYSEE SECRETARY-GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET) THAT USG DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE IMPACT ON FRANCE AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE OF A VICTORY OF THE LEFT COALITION IN THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 19 WITH EMBOFF AND ANOTHER AMERICAN, THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL, DIRECTOR OF QUAI PLANNING STAFF, SAID THAT AT HIGH LEVELS (HE CITED SPECIFICALLY PRIME MINISTER BARRE AND ELYSEE SECRETARY-GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET), THE GOF IS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE IMPACT ON FRANCE AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE OF A VICTORY OF THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION IN THE 1978 FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. DE MONTBRIAL CONTINUED THAT THE ARRIVAL OF A LEFT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A CHAOTIC EFFECT ON THE FRENCH ECONOMY.

3. IN THE DEFENSE FIELD, DE MONTBRIAL SAID THAT THE GOF BELIEVES THAT MANY IN THE USG THINK THAT A
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PS-PCF GOVERNMENT WILL BE HELPFUL ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES BY TAKING A SEAT AT MBFR, CEASING NUCLEAR TESTING, JOINING THE CCD, ETC. HE ADDED THAT SUCH MOVES WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE USG ONLY ON A SUPERFICIAL LEVEL. REAL DAMAGE WILL ENSUE BY A LEFT GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO SERIOUSLY RECOGNIZE THE SOVIET THREAT AND ITS INCLINATION TO TAMPER WITH THE FRENCH-NATO

RELATIONSHIP. DE MONTBRIAL CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE EXPECTED EMBOFF TO REPORT HIS VIEWS.

4. COMMENT: DE MONTBRIAL IS PURSUING THE THEME OF GOF DISSATISFACTION (AS NOTED BY VGE IN APRIL 12 PRESS CONFERENCE) WITH RECENT USG STATEMENTS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT BARRE AND FRANCOIS-PONCET MADE SIMILAR REMARKS TO A RECENT VISITOR. THE LATTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IT IS ONE THING FOR AN EMBASSY TO HAVE CONTACTS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, BUT WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN "ANSWERS UNASKED QUESTIONS" THIS DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN FRANCE.
HARLAN

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